Fighting Urban Crime, Young Officer Emerges as TOP COP
One of the Interesting Aspects of the life of St. Francis was his love of journeying.

From his visit to the Sultan to the multiple trips from Assisi to Rome and Greccio where he recreated the manger scene that launched a live nativity tradition that continues today, he seemed to relish the opportunity to seek out new places, people and opportunities to celebrate the joys in life.

This issue of *Hilbert Connections* features the journeys of several members of the Hilbert community. The success of Amy Pfeffer, a 2006 criminal justice graduate, is described in our cover story. We also celebrate the successful degree completion journey of our 2010 graduates and Bishop Edward Kmiec, who received an honorary degree and presented the commencement address.

The journeys of two long-time faculty colleagues at Hilbert have taken a new direction. First, we celebrate that Dr. Thea Harrington, professor of English and division chairperson of Arts and Sciences, has been named vice president for academic affairs and dean at Keystone College in Pennsylvania. We also congratulate Dr. Donna Levin, professor of psychology, who, after 22 years at Hilbert, has retired to Hilton Head, N.C. Both of these talented, highly effective master teachers made a difference in the journeys of the many students they taught and advised during the years they served at the college. They leave Hilbert with our best wishes and will be deeply missed.

I recently had the privilege of visiting a former Hilbert student who is at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. Nick Stone, a valued member of Jim Sturm’s Dirty Dogs lacrosse club team and a student from 2005-07, decided to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Army. Regrettfully, in mid-May, Nick was severely injured by an IED in Afghanistan and he is facing a long journey of treatment and rehabilitation. As we know, the young women and men serving in our military are making tremendous sacrifices to preserve our freedom.

If you have the opportunity, I would deeply appreciate you sending Nick a card of encouragement or for our alumni and special friends in the Washington area to pay him a visit at Walter Reed (Spec. Nick Stone, Walter Reed Medical Center, Ward #58, Room #35, 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20307). Nick is forever a member of the Hilbert family and let’s keep him, his parents, Mary Jean and Chris, Sr., as well as his wife, Kristin, in our thoughts and prayers.

In the words of Stephen Covey: “we are not human beings on a spiritual journey, we are spiritual beings on a human journey.” Thank you for all you do to make the journeys of Hilbert students possible through your ongoing support. During these difficult economic times, your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Cynthia Zane, Ed.D.  
President
Law & Order

Amy Pfeffer, a young officer with a natural flare for police work, has gone from serving in Iraq to college student to making the most arrests in a year, becoming Rochester’s first Top Cop.

Lab Upgrade Underway

As renovations begin on biology lab, phase one of project to be completed for fall classes.

Graduates Embark on a New Journey

Commencement takes center stage as day of celebration and triumph for Class of ’10. Plus: Profiles on three of Hilbert’s newest graduates.

Hall of Fame Inductees

’05 alumni inducted into Sports Hall of Fame.

President’s View

Around Hilbert

Faculty and Staff File

In the Sports Zone

Alumni News & Notes

Remember When

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Frederick Surface, Jr., a Hilbert College business administration major, has been named the 2009 Collegiate Sales and Marketing Award winner by the Buffalo Niagara Sales and Marketing Executive organization, marking the second consecutive year a Hilbert student has received this top honor.

The Collegiate Sales and Marketing Award is presented to a college senior in the Buffalo-Niagara region who’s considered an up-and-coming leader in the sales or marketing industry. Selection is based on established career plans; work or an internship in the sales or marketing industry; demonstrated sales or marketing success exceeding performance expectations; grade point average; and involvement and contributions to a professional trade organization or community/civic group.

In recognizing Surface as the collegiate award recipient, it was noted he “has pursued and achieved excellence in every dimension of his life. He sets a very high bar that few others reach and then he raises it again.”

Upon completing an internship last summer at Kraft Foods, Surface was ranked the number one intern in the company’s New England region.

Surf is in Hilbert’s Honors Program and has earned a 4.0 grade point average. He’s a member of Hilbert’s Phi Beta Lambda Student Business and Accounting Association, placing first in the organization’s macroeconomics competition in New York State. A U.S. Marine reservist, Surface deployed to Afghanistan this spring. He’ll complete his studies at Hilbert after he returns from deployment and plans to pursue an MBA following graduation from the college.

Green Thumbs Up

It’s not easy being green but Hilbert College is taking steps with “building green” on campus. The college has been awarded a $2,000 Green Building 101 Technical Assistance Grant, one of 15 grants awarded by the nonprofit Second Nature to provide building professionals working on campus facilities projects at institutions across the U.S. with training in “green building.”

Gary Dillsworth, superintendent of physical plant operations at Hilbert, will represent the college in the green building training opportunity. Workshops, Webinars, online courses, and other activities will provide local and regional building professionals with an overview of the benefits of green building and retrofits, case studies of campus green building projects, an introduction to third-party certification, and exposure to innovations in the field.

“At Hilbert, we believe that increased capacity in green building knowledge will translate into lower long-term operating costs and improved environmental conditions,” said Dillsworth. “We’re looking forward to getting successful results from the training.”

Grant awardees were chosen based on a committee’s assessment of the institutions’ level of need, statement of interest and campus sustainability capacity.

Ashka Naik, program manager of Second Nature’s Advancing Green Building Program, noted, “We are confident the colleges receiving these grants will quickly turn their training into results that will benefit their entire campus community.”
Lab Upgrade Underway
Renovation work on Hilbert College’s biology lab in Bogel Hall will get underway this summer as part of a $1.25 million improvement project to modernize the college’s science facilities.

Designed to provide Hilbert students a hands-on science foundation in a state-of-the-art setting with the latest equipment, the project is being partially funded by a $200,000 state grant obtained by State Sen. William T. Stachowski. The biology lab will be completed in time for use this fall.

Phase two of the project to upgrade Hilbert’s chemistry lab is slated to be done next spring.

Books for a Bargain
This fall Hilbert College will begin offering textbook rental services at its campus bookstore. Rent-A-Text will offer Hilbert students a rental option on textbooks, savings that represent, on average, 50 percent off the price of new textbooks.

“We are eager to launch Rent-A-Text because we are committed to providing students with affordable textbooks choices,” said Richard Pinkowski, Hilbert vice president for business/finance. “This program will allow Hilbert students to find lower-cost textbook options right on campus.”

Hilbert’s textbook rental program will:
• Be available to students in store and online with in-store pick up.
• Allow students to choose a preferred form of payment, including financial aid and campus cards.
• Allows students the freedom to highlight and take notes all within the normal wear and tear associated with coursework.
• Give students the choice to buy their textbook at the end of the term if they want to keep the book.

Rent-A-Text will be offered through Hilbert’s ongoing partnership with Follett Higher Education Group. The program is based on Follett’s comprehensive pilot program that saved students nearly $2 million on their course materials in just one semester at seven schools. More than 90 percent of students surveyed who rented textbooks expressed satisfaction with the pilot program.

“We have been at the forefront of cost-savings programs for more than a century,” said Thomas A. Christopher, president of Follett Higher Education Group. “Helping to reduce the costs of higher education is part of our mission and we look forward to working with Hilbert to deliver substantial textbook savings to students.”

Race, Walk Supports Scholarships
A total of 233 runners and walkers, including several Hilbert College alumni, participated in Hilbert’s 2010 Memorial Miles 5K Race/1 Mile Walk held on campus April 10, which raised more than $1,500 for student scholarships.

With special tributes in memory of lost loved ones lining the race course, walkers and runners made their way around campus and the surrounding Hamburg neighborhood. A barbecue was held following the race/walk and a children’s play area was available for youngsters in attendance.

Overall winning runner was Ray Graf, who had a time of 17:46. Awards were handed out to top placed runners and walkers received blue ribbons.

Go to www.hilbert.edu for more photos and info
City of Rochester Police Officer Amy (Weiser) Pfeffer ’06 is sitting in her cruiser when she gets the call: a pizza delivery man in her section has had his money—and his car—stolen. Right on cue, the hot car whizzes past her. Pfeffer follows the suspect, who’s speeding the wrong way down one-way streets and sideswiping cars along his haphazard route. He ditches the car; she gives chase on foot. Finally, Pfeffer, all 5-foot-3 of her, tackles the suspect in a backyard, subduing him before he knows what’s happening.

She slaps the cuffs on him. “That was unbelievable,” she says, half sarcastically. “Yeah,” the suspect replies, “I know I’m going to jail.” Her comment offers a crystal-clear view into what makes this law-enforcement dynamo and winner of Rochester’s Top Cop Award tick. Pfeffer readily admits it: “I’m an adrenaline junkie.”

Her honor in 2009 with Rochester’s first-ever Top Cop Award attests to her love for action. The award is given “annually to one officer whose performance is above and beyond all other officers,” says Rochester Police Chief David Moore. For Pfeffer, that meant making more arrests than anyone else on the force. She’s typically modest about how she ended up as and is now called by her peers, “Top Cop.”

“Actually, I didn’t even realize I was doing it (making the most arrests),” she says. “My work ethic probably contributed. I work hard every day.”

Addicted to Action

For as far back as Pfeffer can remember, she has found ways to make her heart race. As a kid, she got her rush through sports, often with her dad, Gary, as coach. She started bowling as a youngster and became rather good at it but later “didn’t think it was cool enough,” she says with a laugh. She moved on to field hockey, softball, basketball, volleyball, track “anything they let me play.”

Landing in a newly secured Baghdad in Iraq changed all that. Says Pfeffer, “You grow up quickly in a setting like that or you have a lot of problems.”

She was unsure of what she wanted to do after graduating from high school, but she earned an associate’s degree in criminal justice at a community college. Soon after 9/11 happened, and Pfeffer was compelled to help. First, she thought about giving blood; next she joined the Army National Guard. She describes herself at that time as “a young 19. I didn’t know what the world looked like.”

Her unit’s deployment was extended several times, ultimately reaching 15 months. Two soldiers in the unit were killed during that
Serving in the Army National Guard, Amy Pfeffer is shown in Iraq.

For Pfeffer, the biggest lesson was discovering ways to get through the stress and pressure and still maintain friendships. “You really learn how to get along with people when you’re living in close quarters with no family around,” she says.

She looks at her military stint as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The friendships, however, remain. “We’re all still very close,” she says. “When I talk to them, it’s different from talking to anybody else. When I got married, they came to my wedding, and I went to theirs. We’re part of one another’s lives.” That shared history might shed some light on the fact that about 60 percent of her unit became police officers when they returned to the U.S.

Cop in the Making
Pfeffer’s career didn’t materialize as soon as she came home. She wanted to get her four-year degree first. She applied (and was
accepted) to several colleges. Her visit to Hilbert revealed its intimate size and accommodating faculty and staff, which appealed to her. She enrolled in the college’s criminal justice program as an evening student, working at a nursing home during the day.

Pfeffer enjoyed her studies at Hilbert, enjoyed the teachers, the classes. She was accepted as an intern with the Secret Service in Buffalo during that time, no mean feat considering the 30-page application and heavy-duty background check. Pfeffer’s project creating a database of counterfeit money gave her invaluable insight into the prevalence of counterfeiting. “I was surprised at how much it happens and how good it is,” she says.

Of Pfeffer’s Hilbert instructors, one made a decisive impression. Former City of Buffalo Police Chief McCarthy Gipson taught one of her courses, and the two talked often. When Pfeffer told him she was thinking about taking the police exam, Gipson convinced her to go for it.

So in 2006, she took what was for her, a “remarkably easy” police exam, and passed it. She reached the final interview stage for all four forces to which she’d applied, the City of Rochester’s Police Department among them. Rochester scooped her right up, offering an internship that included entering officer reports and ride-alongs. She took the required physical and other tests, received a formal offer and entered a police academy class of around 40 recruits. What she learned during six months of training was quite similar to what she’d learned during Army basic training—use of firearms, offensive tactics, the law, policies and procedures, physical fitness.

Her favorite aspect of training, getting to know the rest of the class, also hearkened back to her Army days. “We really loved each other,” she says. Atypical, her class was called into action at month five because the city was experiencing a spate of street violence. That’s when her strong sense of her surroundings and being an officer seems to have kicked in. One day while walking a beat with a fellow officer, she got a feeling about wanting to pull over a driver she’d spotted. The officer she was with did so, and the ensuing investigation revealed a “really bad guy” carrying a stolen gun. “I just had a sense about how he looked,” she explains. “If they’re not looking at you, they’re probably doing something wrong.”

A few weeks later, during a nasty snow-storm on Valentine’s Day 2007, Pfeffer set out as a newly minted officer on the streets of Rochester’s tough northeast district.

Life on the Streets
As you’d expect, the past three years on Pfeffer’s beat has had its peaks and valleys. She drives alone now because, like many

other cities, Rochester recently converted to single-officer patrol cars. She and another officer—“Alex, a big, solid kid”—trail each other during their shift. Like partners who share a car, Pfeffer and Alex have come to know each other’s habits, personalities and preferences. “You look out for each other and read one another very well,” she explains. Alex’s six-foot-plus height and Pfeffer’s petite stature have resulted in nicknames from the folks on their beat: “They call us the brawn and the brains or the pit-bull and the rabbit.”

The lifestyle of some of the people she encounters was, at first, unfamiliar. Further, she says, “You have to deal with people at their absolute worst.” But Pfeffer has gradually come to relate to and even understand the folks she deals with, even drug pushers. “They might not have a choice,” she says. “Maybe they’re just young kids with nobody pushing them to do better. If they take a [criminal] charge early, life takes a downhill spiral.”

About 70 percent of her calls are “domestics”—family troubles. They can range from an argument that can’t get resolved to murder. New York State law has strict requirements for handling domestic violence issues, so Pfeffer makes a good number of arrests during these calls. On the other hand, sometimes she’s unable to do anything legally about a situation. Occasionally, though, she walks away from a call and thinks, “That’s going to help.”

She tells the story of a stressed single mom who called for assistance with her rebellious 12-year-old daughter. Pfeffer talked with the girl for nearly an hour. When she ran into the mother some time later, Pfeffer was gratified to hear the daughter was in school and back on track.

In many situations, Pfeffer’s goal is to not make an arrest but simply to assess what’s going on. Her antenna may go up when an individual is somewhere that just doesn’t make sense. Pfeffer’s allowed to ask what’s happening. “They could walk away, but you watch for the signs—sweating, shaking, answering obvious questions incorrectly.”

Her success as a cop, though, is clearly based on her natural ability to combine disparate elements of police work: toughness versus understanding, moderation versus a strict adherence to the law.
Other clues are more fragrant: “You can smell weed. Then I have grounds to search them.”

Pfeffer also makes numerous street stops—pulling cars over for obvious DWI, finding guns or drugs, or even chasing cars down. Street stops can be quite dangerous, so—no surprise—they’re Pfeffer’s favorite part of the job. “We compete with criminals to see if we can outsmart them,” she says.

Facing the Unthinkable
Pfeffer is clearly outsmarting her fair share, and then some, of Rochester’s criminals. Her actual Top Cop stats prove it: In 2008, she logged 254 arrests, besting every other officer’s tally by more than 50. But the statistics about criminals tell only part of her recent story. The Top Cop award, she says, might have come to her because “someone saw my statistics and said, ‘Something’s going on here.’” It might have been a combination of that and of her partner getting shot.

Pfeffer utters that last phrase—“my partner getting shot”—with a calmness that belies the event and her emotions around it. The violence in the City of Rochester is one of the toughest parts of the job. In fact, attacks on police officers in particular are increasing, with four officers shot this year alone in Monroe, Rochester’s county. That statistic hit home with awful clarity for Pfeffer herself on Jan. 31, 2009.

That day, she and her then-partner, Anthony DiPonzio, got a call about drug activity at a neighborhood house and went to the location. Another officer had already arrived at the scene, which seemed under control. Yet, as DiPonzio walked back to his patrol car, he was shot in the back of the head. The culprit, with whom Pfeffer had dealt previously, was just 14-years-old. Police procedures specify that an injured officer be transported to a hospital by ambulance. At that moment, Pfeffer says, “We didn’t have the time.” She and the other officer carried DiPonzio to a cruiser. Pfeffer climbed into the back seat with him, holding his hand during the race to Rochester General Hospital.

“Training dictates how you should handle a situation, but it’s also about your friend. I knew I couldn’t leave him alone. There’s not a lot you can do for a head wound, but I wouldn’t change what I did,” she says.

Pfeffer knows now that DiPonzio had an 80 percent chance of dying the day he was shot. For a while, she had problems dealing with what had happened. Face to face with the unthinkable, she wondered if she should do something safer for a living. Ultimately, she came to a deep-seated realization of how valuable and delicate life is. “I enjoy my life so much more. I’m nicer to my fellow cops; I spend more time with my husband and friends.” And DiPonzio? “He’s a miracle story,” says Pfeffer. “He’s doing great and seems to have taken a whole new form somehow. It’s amazing to watch.” The shooter received 10 years under juvenile sentencing laws.

“The judge told the kid, ‘When they wrote the law, they never saw you coming,’” she recalls.

More to Come
Pfeffer believes her achievements result first and foremost from her parents instilling in her the principle of hard work. Her success as a cop, though, is clearly based on her natural ability to combine disparate elements of police work: toughness versus understanding, moderation versus a strict adherence to the law. “Sometimes you have to adjust, and accept criticism when you screw up,” she says. “Trust me, someone will tell you when you’re not perfect.”

Hard work still remains a constant thread, however. Pfeffer completed a master’s degree in an accelerated criminal justice administration program while she was working. “You should always continue to better yourself even if you have your dream job,” she says. “Think of what you want to accomplish, and find ways to do it.”

Ironically, this law-enforcement dervish has finally slowed down for the most ordinary, but joyous of reasons. Four months’ pregnant, Pfeffer is doing desk duty until after the baby is born. She’s not on the street where she loves to be, but she doesn’t slough off the experience. “I’ll definitely write better reports,” she says with a smile. HC

Grace Lazzara is a freelance writer and public relations consultant residing in Buffalo, N.Y.
Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo had a special message for the Hilbert College Class of 2010: “Our world needs you to become light for the darkness in our world…In big ways and little ones, trust in yourselves to be able to make a difference, to create a better world for yourselves and for everyone.”

In his address at Hilbert College’s 49th annual commencement exercises on May 8, Bishop Kmiec noted that “it is the charism of Hilbert in which I trust you have been totally immersed. If you live out those ideals, you will bring a giftedness to yourselves and to all of society.”

As the stirring sounds of the Trinity Episcopal Pipes and Drums filled the air inside, record-breaking winds blew outside the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg where Hilbert’s commencement ceremony took place. However, the gusty, rainy weather didn’t dampen the spirits of graduates, family and other guests as they celebrated.
the spirit and message of the day of a promising future.

“This is your day, a day of significant achievement and accomplishment in your lives,” noted Bishop Kmiec.

It was also a historic day as the Class of 2010 marked the first graduating class that entered the college the same year President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., started as Hilbert’s president. Zane told the graduates, “The Hilbert community will miss the Class of 2010, your spark and your spirit. We came to Hilbert at the same time, in 2006 – you are my first class and you are very special to me.”

In addition to conferring four- and two-year degrees to more than 240 graduates in the Class of 2010, Zane presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Bishop Kmiec, who as the 13th bishop of the Buffalo diocese provides spiritual leadership to more than 656,000 Catholics in the eight-county diocese. Also receiving an honorary doctorate was former Hilbert trustee Scott Bieler, president of West Herr Automotive
Ten years ago, Safina Furaha Fetterick was living with her family in the Republic of Congo where her stepmother, a Rwandan, faced being forced to return to her native country at a time the lives of Rwandans were in grave danger.

“During that period, the African region was in great turmoil and the Congolese government was demanding Rwandans return to their country despite the potential threat there to their lives. We needed to go where it was safe,” she recalls.

Leaving all they knew behind, the family fled to Buffalo, a major refugee resettlement area, with the assistance of a friend at the American Embassy in Kinshasa, Congo’s capital city, and Catholic Charities. Fetterick along with five younger siblings and her stepmother settled in and adjusted to a country that’s radically different from all they had known – the culture, environment, language, even the weather.

“In the Congo, there’s a lot of rain and it’s not uncommon for it to reach 110 degrees in the summer. Coming to Buffalo, the weather was a major transition, especially since we didn’t have winter clothes when we arrived so, at first, we were completely unprepared for cold, snowy weather,” she says.

It all seems a lifetime ago. Last month, the 28-year-old received a bachelor’s degree in psychology, gave the student address (see sidebar story on page 13 on father-daughter graduates Randy and Elle Zimpfer).

Top student awards were given to Maggie Fage, the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award; Rosalie Herberger, the Sister Mary Edwina Bogel Award; John Morath, the John Kissel Man of the Year Award; and Debra Tredo, the Lambert and Margaret Graham Award.

Fage, Herberger and Morath also received Outstanding Community Service Awards at Hilbert’s baccalaureate Mass held commencement morning. Other Outstanding Community Service Award recipients were Stephanie Baumgart, Leala Bowens, Chelsie Chiodo, Jonathon Clark, Andrea Corigliano, Regina Ernst, James Kiblin, Corey McNierney, Brooke Rider, Donna Rimbeck, Michael Shriver, Chad Thomson, and Elle Zimpfer.

I had doubts about being able to achieve my educational goals but I did and it feels terrific,” says Fetterick, whose father, a Congolese, and a brother still reside in Africa.

After arriving in Western New York, Fetterick’s family moved to Buffalo’s West Side. She first set her sights on learning English, a language she calls “highly challenging.” Even so, with the assistance of Buffalo Catholic Charities, it took her only three months to master the language, one of five she speaks.

Fetterick was soon welcomed into a supportive local family, the Fettericks, who adopted her in 2005. “They took me in and accepted me as part of their family. I dearly love them for all they have done for me,” says Fetterick.

Now living in a Rochester suburb, Fetterick has thrived in the decade since coming to the WNY area. She came to Hilbert as a transfer student after earning an associate’s degree in psychology, gave the student address (see sidebar story on page 13 on father-daughter graduates Randy and Elle Zimpfer).

To view a TV news story on Safina Fetterick, go to the Newsline section on www.hilbert.edu.
After working for the New York State Department of Correctional Services since 1984, Randy Zimpfer had an opportunity to retire last year and move on to the next stage of his life. Yet, the 51-year-old correction lieutenant knew he still had much more to contribute to the law enforcement field and wasn’t ready to close out a successful 25-year correctional career.

Having already received an associate’s degree, Randy focused on furthering his education with a bachelor’s degree while continuing to work full time at Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility in Brocton, N.Y. About a year before the possibility of retirement came up, he looked at his options and decided to enroll in the criminal justice program at Hilbert College, an institution he had become quite familiar with through his family. After all, his daughter, Elliot (Elle), was a psychology major in her junior year at Hilbert. Plus, his wife, Donna Zimpfer, is on the college faculty as an assistant professor of criminal justice.

Now two years later, Randy and Elle graduated together in the Hilbert Class of 2010, each receiving bachelor’s degrees at the 49th annual exercises, where Elle also delivered the student address.

For Randy, attending Hilbert at the same time as his daughter was both motivating and inspiring.

“Being a fellow student with Elle, who is a very intelligent young lady, definitely pushed me to do better academically. It also gave me a unique opportunity to see my oldest child excel right before my eyes in the academic world. Of course, the greatest benefit was spending time with her,” he says.

Elle, age 22, agrees there were many benefits to being classmates, but most notably, “it gave us a different perspective on our relationship,” she says. “We also had fun with a lot of things, like joking about who would get better grades.”

The introduction to Hilbert for Randy and Elle started with having the family link to the college. “I would sit in on my stepmother’s (Donna Zimpfer) classes when I was still in high school and I loved it,” recalls Elle. “The classes were small and personable, which eased the transition from high school to college.”

Randy too was impressed with the “caliber of classes. As a Hilbert alumna, my wife shared with me that the unique quality about the college is the real life experience that professors offer. A great number of criminal justice professors have prior law enforcement experience that lends a perspective to students that isn’t always found in a textbook.”

Although they did not have classes together and were in separate academic majors, the connection Randy and Elle shared outside the classroom was advantageous. “Having another set of eyes to review papers and share ideas about research topics was very helpful,” says Randy.

One of the highlights during their time at Hilbert came last fall at the Penn-York Undergraduate Research Conference, where they each gave an oral presentation and presented a poster project on their research topics.

“Elle did a wonderful job on her ‘color therapy’ psychology research. Listening to her presentation, it was a proud moment for me,” says Randy, whose research focused on inmate gangs.

“Having my father there for me and giving his support was terrific,” adds Elle, who was an Honors Program student.

Each excelled in their studies, earning academic honors and were named to the 2010 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

As they prepared for commencement, the father-daughter graduates reflected on their Hilbert experience as exceptionally positive and, in some ways, life changing.

“I loved Hilbert. It made me the person I am today because of the endless opportunities it offered to me as a student,” says Elle, who this fall will enter the mental health counseling master’s program at the University at Buffalo and then hopes to pursue a doctorate. “When in high school, I felt disconnected from my school but Hilbert was different. My approach in college was to make the experience as fulfilling and fun as I could make it. Hilbert made that possible.”

It was equally gratifying for Randy. “Attending classes at Hilbert was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. The opportunity to share my own life experience, participate in community service projects and student clubs, research various topics, and discuss many viewpoints added to the overall learning experience at Hilbert,” he says.

Looking ahead, Randy has his sights set on going on to graduate school and possibly earning a doctorate degree in the future. “With my wife’s encouragement, I know that my goal is to step on the academic ladder and climb to the top.”
Four Named to Hilbert Board of Trustees

John Ciminelli, James Dunlop, Jr., Richard Hamister, and Donald Ogilvie have been named to three-year terms on the Hilbert College Board of Trustees.

With 25 years of construction and development expertise, Ciminelli serves as senior vice president of LPCiminelli, one of the leading construction groups in Upstate New York. Prior to this, he was president and chief operating officer of GPS Construction, Co., and vice president of Ciminelli Development Co.

A certified construction inspector, Ciminelli serves on the Construction Exchange of Buffalo and Western New York Board of Governors and Nardin Academy Board of Trustees, as well as chaired the 2009 Buffalo Catholic Charities Appeal.

A Clarence resident, Ciminelli completed the University at Buffalo’s Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership program, where he continues to serve as a mentor to new participations, and UB’s micro MBA program.

Dunlop is executive vice president and chief financial officer at Catholic Health System of Buffalo, where he’s held various leadership and management positions during his 14-year tenure. He serves on the board of directors for Catholic Health and all hospitals in its system.

A certified public accountant, Dunlop received the 2009 CFO of the Year Award and was a 2006 Business First 40 Under Forty honoree. He’s a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts, Healthcare Financial Management Association and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

An Orchard Park resident, Dunlop received an MBA from UB and a bachelor’s degree in economics and public policy from the University of Rochester.

With more than 25 years experience in the financial industry, Hamister is serving as vice president and area sales manager at First Niagara Bank. Before joining the bank in 2005, he was executive vice president of finance at the Hamister Group.

Hamister serves as president of the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce, having previously served on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association Western New York Chapter and Junior Achievement of Western New York.

A resident of Orchard Park, he is a Leadership Buffalo graduate and received an MBA from Canisius College and a bachelor’s degree in accounting and business administration from Thiel College.

Ogilvie is district superintendent and CEO of Erie 1 BOCES Cooperative Educational Services. As district superintendent, he is field representative of the New York State Commissioner of Education for 20 Erie County school districts and Buffalo Public Schools.

Prior to Erie 1 BOCES, Ogilvie served as superintendent of the Hamburg Central School District.

Active with various organizations, Ogilvie is on the board of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York, and WNY Public Broadcasting/WNED.

His work in education and the area community has been recognized with the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce Business Recognition Award for an Outstanding Individual and the Junior Achievement Educator of the Year Award, as well as many other honors.

In addition to being a Leadership Buffalo graduate, Ogilvie, who resides in Hamburg, received master’s and bachelor’s degrees in education from Buffalo State College.
Rob deGrandpre, head men’s basketball coach and assistant athletics director, will be coaching the Western Open Men’s Basketball team at the Empire State Games being held in Buffalo in July.

Michael Degnan, Ph.D., has been named interim chair of the Arts and Sciences Division and will also continue as professor of English.

“Indivisible,” a play by Taylor Doherty, assistant professor of drama, premiered in March at the Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix, Ariz., and received a glowing review in the Phoenix New Times. In addition to attending the premiere, Doherty gave a lecture on playwriting to an Arizona State College graduate class that attended a performance of the play.

Charles Ernst, Ph.D., professor of English, was recognized for his six years of service as executive director of the College English Association during the CEA’s annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Legal studies adjunct instructors Jennifer Flannery and Catherine Nagel were presenters at a law guardian continuing legal education program offered by the Erie Institute of Law.

Chris Gallant, assistant professor of digital media and communication, has received an Emmy Award for “Niagara Falls: A Tale of Two Cities,” a WGRZ-TV news documentary he directed, edited and shot in high definition. This is the second Emmy honor Gallant has received.

Maia Kapuszczak, payroll/benefits coordinator, and Wayne Harvey, maintenance staff, have each received a 2010 Mother Colette Staff Mission Award, which recognizes Hilbert staff members who exemplify the college’s mission.

Herb Kauderer, assistant professor of English, has been selected for the 2010 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for graduate studies he’s done at the University at Buffalo.

Andrew Kolin, Ph.D., professor of political science, served as a journal referee and evaluated a manuscript for the February issue of Theory, Culture and Society, a peer reviewed journal that publishes original research and review articles in the social and cultural sciences.

Janelle Kostran, assistant professor of mathematics, was invited to join other selected math faculty from across the country to serve as an AP reader for this year’s AP calculus exam.

Bob Pawelski, IT coordinator, played on the Town of Hamburg Police Department’s team as they took on the Buffalo Sabres alumni in a charity hockey game. A check for $7,400 from the event was presented to Alex’s Lemonade Stand, a nationwide fund raising effort to help fight childhood cancer.

Richard Walsh, former director of athletics, has been named major gifts officer in the Hilbert Office of Institutional Advancement.

Paula Witherell, public relations director, received four 2010 Excalibur Awards from the Public Relations Society of America/Niagara Chapter – a gold award for Hilbert’s Fast Facts brochure, silver awards for Hilbert Weekly, a new faculty/staff e-mail newsletter, and the ’09 college Christmas card, and a bronze award for Hilbert Connections magazine.

President Cynthia Zane was among 15 area business leaders who offered their time to have lunch and meet with winning bidders from a Buffalo Niagara Partnership CEO silent auction. The meetings were used for relationship building and to offer business advice and career guidance. HC
Special Hawks Send Off

Dressed in blue and white Hilbert College attire, the college community gave a special send-off to the baseball and softball teams in March as players and coaches prepared to leave for their spring break games on the road.

Father Michael Sajda, OFM Conv., Hilbert trustee and president of St. Francis High School, offered a Franciscan blessing for a safe journey. Prayers were also said for the recovery of Jonathan (Jay) Musialowski, head baseball coach who suffered a severe brain injury in a car accident only two weeks before the season started. Stephen Spillman was named interim head coach for the season and Chet Musialowski, Jay’s father, stepped in to serve as an assistant coach along with Matt Schoepflin.

As Jay Musialowski continues to recover from his injuries, t-shirts and wristbands are being sold in support of the Jay Musialowski Recovery Fund. Two kinds of t-shirts are available for $15 each. Blue JJM wristbands are $2.

You can learn more about the items for sale by going to the JJM Fund Web site at www.jjmfoundation.info. Updates on Musialowski’s recovery are available at getwellsoonjay.info.

Countdown to Face Off

With roughly 200-plus days to go, the countdown has begun on Hilbert College’s inaugural season of men’s lacrosse. Check out the official countdown to face off, right to the last second, at www.hilbert.edu/athletics/mens-lacrosse.

Practice Catches TV Limelight

Buffalo’s WGRZ-TV Daybreak morning show made an unexpected visit to Hilbert College’s Hafner Recreation Center to catch the Hawks softball practice in action as they prepared for the upcoming season.

Adding a twist to the show’s “Celebrate WNY” segment, reporter Kevin O’Neill left it open where he would broadcast from that morning, instead taking call-in suggestions during the 5 a.m. hour. The softball team’s daily practice starting at 6 a.m. caught O’Neill’s attention, resulting in a live broadcast from practice and an interview with head coach Peter Yuhas, Jr.

To see the “Celebrate WNY” clip, go to Women’s Softball News at www.hilbert.edu/athletics.

Revered Reps

For the first time since 2005, two Hilbert College student-athletes have been selected by the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) as recipients of the Faculty Athletic Representative of the Year Award.

2010 award winners are Maggie Fage ’10, women’s soccer, and Matthew Begeal ’10, men’s soccer and baseball. Selection is based on academic achievement and athletic accomplishments.

Hall of Fame Inductees

Hilbert College Class of 2005 graduates Sam Gioia and Jessica Macri have been named as this year’s Sports Hall of Fame inductees. The two former star athletes were officially inducted at the Hilbert Athletics Department awards banquet held at the end of the spring semester.

Gioia’s athletic achievements were spotlighted with his time on the hardwood and on the diamond. His 1,212 points (sixth overall), 365 assists (second overall), and 412 rebounds (seventh overall) propelled him to being a three-time NEAC Player of the Year, team most valuable player, as well as a two-time All Conference player.

Macri’s play-making talents were highlighted on the soccer field, especially in the assist category where her name is listed in the Division III NCAA national records books. Her 19 goals, 50 assists and 88 points ranks her second in total points in the Hilbert record book, but she owns sole possession of first place with 50 assists. Her efforts during the 2001-04 seasons secured her the NCAA national 10th ranking for assists per game (.71) and 20th ranking for assists (50).

Macri was a four-time All Conference, two-time most valuable player, and a National Soccer Coaches Association of America Scholar All-Region Academic selection.
From the Alumni President

As president of the Hilbert College Alumni Association, I feel honored to be a part of the successful growth and progress that we have made over the past few years. The alumni association continues to develop and there are many more achievements left for our team to conquer.

The Hilbert Alumni Association has made notable fund-raising accomplishments since the beginning of the year. It is our distinct honor to continue to give back to the college we know and love even after we graduate. I’m pleased to announce that the alumni association has again fulfilled its goal of a $1,500 donation to the Hilbert Legal Studies Advisory Council.

Mary Ann (Button OleJNIk) Crooks AA ’96 is employed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Buffalo.

Thomas Doody BS ’97 is a certified financial planner at Merrill Lynch in Phoenix, Ariz.

Brenda Ellis AAS ’94 is a senior credit risk and policy analyst at HSBC in Buffalo.

Rachel McCabe BS ’96 is human resource manager at Synacor in Buffalo.

Patrick Pascal AA ’93 is chief of police in District A of the Buffalo Police Department.

Susan (Wray) Pike BS ’99 is operations manager for the New York Smokers’ Quitline at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.

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Patrick Pascal AA ’93 is chief of police in District A of the Buffalo Police Department.

Susan (Wray) Pike BS ’99 is operations manager for the New York Smokers’ Quitline at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.

Carla Ahles BA ’03 is a customer service representative at the Internal Revenue Service in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Sara Anthis BS ’01 has been admitted to the New York State Bar and opened a practice in Buffalo.

Samantha Dombrowski BS ’02 is employed at the Law Offices of Kenneth Hiller in Amherst, N.Y.

Robyn Dunham BS ’02 is a paralegal at Stawiarski & Associates in Denver, Colo.

Jenna Engel BS ’09 is a paralegal at Bonarigo & McCutcheon in Batavia, N.Y.

Novella Fenderson BS ’05 is a loan administrator –
Continued on next page

To contact the Hilbert Office of Alumni Relations: 716-926-8791, dmessinger@hilbert.edu
commercial administrator and operations at First Niagara Bank in Buffalo.

ROSANNE GAWRONSKI BS ‘07 is a production control/job order facilitator at Curbell Electronics in Orchard Park, N.Y.

ALYSSA GILBERT BS ‘09 is a security officer at Seebald Security Solutions in Lockport, N.Y.

TAMI HILL BS ‘07 is employed at the Law Offices of Kenneth Hiller in Amherst, N.Y.

ERIK JOHANSON BS ‘08 is a Chautauqua County sheriff.

HOLLY KELLER AAS ‘08 is employed at Steven J. Baum, Attorneys at Law in Amherst, N.Y.

NICOLE KOGUT BS ‘03 received the New York State Court Officer Award from the Erie County Sheriff’s Badge and Shield Club for her handling of a volatile situation involving three teenagers threatening suicide due to the result of an Erie County Court case in 2009.

CHRISTINA LOUNSBURY BS ‘08 is a contracts assistant at Superior Group.

CHRIStopher Matteson BS ’07 is a police officer in the Genesee and Perry Police Departments in Western New York.

KEVIN MCKENZIE BS ’09 is a case manager in the Erie County Department of Senior Services in Buffalo.

DEBORAH MOGAVERO BS ’09 is enrolled in the executive leadership program at Daemen College and is an adjunct instructor at Hilbert.

KEVIN ORCUTT BS ’06 is a border patrol agent in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

ANDREW PFIEFER BA ’09 was highlighted in the Newsroom Notebook blog of Buffalo’s WIVB-TV news anchor Jacquie Walker, who wrote about Pfeifer and his family participating in Walk MS, a fund raiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society held in May at Coca-Cola Field in Buffalo.

Gowanda Correctional Facility in Gowanda, N.Y.

Shawn shearer BS ’00 is owner of Total Cleaning Solutions and nickel City Redemption, buffalo-area businesses recently featured in a Business First story.

Maegan Stanek BS ’08 is an operations specialist at the FBI in Buffalo.

Jacob whitehead BS ’07 is a New York State corrections officer assigned to Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, N.Y.

Matthew ziolekowski BS ’09 is an investigator for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in Buffalo.

Amy Bartz BS ’02 to Bradley Meisner

Angela D’martino to Jay Grann

KELLY CANASKI BS ’08 welcomed a daughter, Grace.

ROBYN DUNHAM BS ’02 welcomed a daughter, Aeris Dunham.

KRISTIE EDWARDS BA ’07 welcomed a daughter, Grace Elliot.
Back to the Middle Ages

It was a full house for O’Connell and Company’s performance of “King Richard’s Wedding Feast,” a dinner theater event hosted in the Campus Center Dining Hall by the Hilbert College Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Relations.

The entertaining show took the capacity crowd back in time to the Middle Ages as they enjoyed an evening of song, games and fun with King Richard the Lion Hearted and his court.

Upcoming Events

September 29 & 30
Writing a Resume That Gets Noticed

October 13 & 14
Answering Those Tough Interview Questions

October 4 – 8
St. Francis Week Celebration

Info on these and other events, go to www.hilbert.edu.

THANK YOU!
150,000 times

Thanks to your generosity, the 2010 Hilbert College Fund received a record-breaking $150,000+ in gifts, making a tremendous difference in the lives of many of our students. Your support is deeply appreciated!

14th Annual
Drums Along the Waterfront
Drum Corps International Competition

Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010
5:30 p.m. Rain or Shine
Ralph Wilson Stadium
Orchard Park, N.Y.

Hilbert College alumni discount tickets available by contacting:
Craig Harris
(716) 926-8888
charris@hilbert.edu
When Remember the ‘00s

With the academic year coming to a close, students have some fun by giving the bounce house a try at the Hilbert College Quad Party, a traditional outdoor bash held in the campus quad. Marking its 10th year when this photo was taken, the end-of-year Quad Party featured a variety of fun activities for the campus community, including a dunk tank, foam dance pit, volleyball, laser tag, live music with Buffalo band For What It’s Worth, games, and much more.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ‘00s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-926-8888, or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu.